Prof. Daniel J.B. Mitchell
3/19/08

DIRECTIONS FOR PROJECT IN MGT. 205A*
Spring 2008

Mechanics:

- Choose three ranked topics from the list below or propose a topic based on directions below.

- Hand in to Prof. Mitchell a list of the 3 topics you have chosen ranked by order of preference no later than class on week 2. If Prof. Mitchell sees a problem with your selections, he will send you an e-mail. Prof. Mitchell will attempt to spread topics, i.e., not have multiple students on the same topic. In cases where there are no problems with your selection, Prof. Mitchell will notify you by the next class what your approved topic is.

- Hand in to Prof. Mitchell a tentative outline of the report by class on week 7.). You may do this earlier if you are ready. Prof. Mitchell will be happy to make suggestions, based on outlines handed in early. He will also let you know if problems exist in your outline.

- Hand in to Prof. Mitchell the final report by week 9 in class. Note that this is not the last day/week of class.

- Reports are typically 15-20 pages double-spaced. Please do not use mini-fonts (mini-fonts), 1.5 spaces between lines, or other word processing magic. Pages should be numbered so that Prof. Mitchell can refer to particular pages in his comments to you.

Suggested Topics:

- Eastern Europe's evolving comparative advantage. You can pick a particular country, e.g., Poland, Russia or other republics of the former U.S.S.R., or the region. Indicate which country or countries. Country reports should focus on the

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* Any corrections or changes on this document after the date shown above will be made in class.

international aspect (trade, international investment), not internal descriptions.

- NAFTA's impact on Mexico. For example, history of Mexican maquiladora exports to the U.S. and what NAFTA may mean for the maquiladora plants.
- Impact of the Mexican-American-Canadian free trade agreement (NAFTA) on the U.S. economy.
- NAFTA's impact on Canada.
- The Mexican peso crisis of the 1990s and its implications for either the Mexican economy or the international monetary system. How was it resolved? What were the causes and consequences. What did we learn from this episode?
- International regulation of textile/apparel trade with the U.S. (Multifiber Agreement) and its termination.
- European Union and the development of the Single Market: Implications for internal EU welfare.
- European Union and the development of the Single Market: Trade implications for outside countries such as the U.S., Asian countries, Eastern Europe, etc.
- EU expansion into Eastern Europe
- The role of the International Monetary Fund in a world of flexible exchange rates. How effectively did it deal with financial crises in Latin America, Asia, Russia?
- Impact of the creation of the euro in the EU. Will more countries join the euro-zone? What will be the impact on euro-zone states? On outside countries?
- The future of the international monetary system. (Should we return to fixed exchange rates? Or what?)
- The switch in the 1980s of the U.S. from a creditor to a debtor nation. Cause and implications.
- U.S.-Japan trade and/or investment frictions.
- Trade issues related to a particular industry. (Specify which industry will be your topic). Examples: entertainment, steel, electronics, aircraft.
- Unfinished business left over from the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations (which created the WTO). Future of the WTO.
- OPEC's future.
- Export-led growth in one or more of the "four-tiger" countries. (Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong). If you are picking one country, specify which one.
- The expanding role of (mainland) China in world markets.

- **Taiwan-Peoples Republic of China trade and investment relations.**
- **Are Japanese trade patterns "different" from those of other developed countries?**
- **Is international trade depressing U.S. wages or widening wage/income inequality?**
- **U.S.-China trade/investment-related frictions including those involving the Chinese exchange rate.**
- **What did the Asian countries do wrong to provoke the Asian financial crisis? What did they do right to promote rapid growth up to the crisis? How have they recovered since the crisis?**
- **The Mercosur agreement.**
- **Impact of the possible extension of NAFTA to Chile and other countries.**
- **The WTO as a trade dispute settling mechanism.**
- **Use of currency boards in Argentina, Hong Kong, or elsewhere. Successes and failures.**
- **History topic: What was the actual experience under the gold standard?**
- **Are anti-dumping laws a substitute for older forms of protection? Or are they justified? Current dumping controversies.**
- **Bilateral or other trade agreements (apart from NAFTA and WTO).**
- **Issues related to outsourcing of work such as call centers.**
- **Roots/causes of popular anti-globalism.**
- **Can the U.S. continue to expand its net debt to the world or will there be a financial crisis as a result?**
- **U.S. oil import dependence. Problem? Implications?**
- **Open: Your proposal. But please don't just pick a country and propose to write a general report about its economy. Your proposal should deal with issues related to MGT. 205A (trade, exchange rates, etc.)**

Some Guidelines for Professional Report Writing for this Course (and any others you may take!)

- ✓ **Use an *outline style* with *actual** headings and subheadings:**

  Introduction
  I. Topic #1
  i. Subtopic
  ii. Subtopic 1b
  etc.
  X. Conclusions

- ✓ **Use the *introduction* to state what your main topic is and where you will be going.**
- ✓ **Use the *conclusion* to sum up the report and make recommendations.**
- ✓ ***Give credit where credit is due* via footnotes or references. Note that all papers will be submitted through Turnitin.com. Using unoriginal material is "suicide by cop" when checked by Turnitin.com. Very bad things have happened to students who submitted unoriginal material in this class and others taught by Prof. Mitchell. Prof. Mitchell is not fussy about footnote/reference formats. The test is whether one could find the source from the reference.**
- ✓ **When presenting data tables or graphics, be sure to discuss them in the text. But do not just rehash the numbers. Explain what you are demonstrating with the data tables or graphics.**
- ✓ **When using data (in tables or graphics), present them in a meaningful way. Is the most useful information the absolute value, the rate of change, as a ratio to some other index?**
- ✓ ***Number your pages* so that instructor comments can be made referring to locations in the paper.**
- ✓ **Avoid paragraphs that go on and on and on and on. After 3 sentences, begin to ask yourself if a new thought is being introduced. If so, you probably should start a new paragraph. Avoid sentences that go on and on and on. After 3 lines, begin to ask yourself whether your sentence can be cut into two separate sentences. These are the *"rules of 3."***
- ✓ **Don't be afraid to use your *spellcheck*. Be afraid not to use it!**
- ✓ **Avoid starting sentence after sentence with the same word. The.... The.... The.... The...**
- ✓ ***Avoid a folksy style* of writing. "I always loved this topic because..." Avoid little asides to the reader. "You probably are wondering why..."**
- ✓ ***Pay attention to these guidelines.***

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*"Actual" means that it is **mandatory**.